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REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 1, 2006. Claims 4 and 11 to 14 are in the application, of which Claim 4 is the sole remaining independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4 and 11 to 14. Based on that indication, Claims 1, 3 and 5 to 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,256,132 (Ishibe) in view of U.S. Patent 6,643,043 (Kato). The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejection, in an effort to obtain an earlier allowance of the subject application and to expedite issuance. Moreover, Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the rejected claims. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejection.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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